

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
LINCOLN CHAPTER- NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2, 1993

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CHAPTER NEWS

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At the Feb 15th Board Meeting of the Lincoln Chapter, a chapter budget was proposed and adopted by the Board of Directors for 1993. The budget was established at \$6,050.00. This figure was determined by examining the income and expense of the chapter for the past several years.

A genealogy committee was reestablished by the chapter. We are looking for a few volunteers to serve on this committee.

With the cooperation and donation of funds from the Lincoln, NE Chapter and the Golden Gate Chapter, CA, the AHSGR Society purchased a card printer for the Research and Genealogy Department of AHSGR. This printer will be used for printing family group cards and for other Society business. This will save the Society over \$6,000 a year and free volunteer and staff time for other projects. Let's give a big THANK YOU to the membership of both chapters for their team work and generous donation.

This year the Kraut/Brei Dinner will be held May 14th, 4:30 to 7:00 PM at the Welfare Society Hall 1430 No. 10th. Use the order form in newsletter or contact a Board Member for tickets.

If you would like to charter a bus for the convention in Denver, please contact: Lefty Grenemeier at 486-1673.

The display cases and artifacts were removed from the 2nd floor and moved to the lower level of the AHSGR Headquarters. This move will allow senior citizens and handicapped people access to the displays without climbing any stairs.

The 2nd floor will be used for research and genealogy and displaying chapter banners.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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- MAR 9 LLCGS "Genealogy and the Computer" 7:15 PM; Dick Administration Bldg - Union College. 3800 So. 48th.
- Mar 13 PAF_LUG Meeting: "What will happen to your genealogy when you die". Guest speaker Larry Ohs. 7:00 PM - Family History Center. 3000 Old Cheney Rd.
- Mar 15 Chapter Board Meeting
- Mar 19 International Board Meeting
20 Lincoln, NE.
- Apr 18 General Meeting with speaker Chapel - 631 "D" St.
- Apr 19 Chapter Board Meeting
- Apr 30 State Genealogy Meeting
May 1 Beatrice, NE
- May 14 Annual Kraut/Brei Dinner
W.S.I 1430 No. 10th
- May 17 Chapter Board Meeting
- Jun 20 - 27 "24th International Convention" Denver, CO.

"WHERE DOES THE SOCIETY GET ITS REVENUE"?

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1. Memberships
2. Interest from life memberships
3. Book sales
4. Donations
5. Convention proceeds
6. Administrative services -
Foundation

"WHERE DOES THE FOUNDATION GET ITS REVENUE"?

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1. Interest from Investments
2. Rent from warehouse
3. Dividends from Stock Investments
4. Donations

"TAKE IT FROM HENRY"

by Hank Grasmick

Our Lincoln people, meaning our Germans from Russia, owe a debt of gratitude to the People's City Mission. Our people enjoyed many benefits and blessings throughout the years, especially during the early 1900's.

The City Mission was founded in the year 1907 as a rescue mission. It was organized by the churches of Lincoln to care for and minister to the transients.

As the Germans from Russia settled in the city in large numbers, the Sunday School was started. Our people were included, especially the children whose parents spoke German at home. The children wanted to learn the American language rapidly. The main ministry was to the needs of the "down and out"ers, transients coming into the city by railroad boxcar or by just "hiking" into the city.

A language barrier existed between the parents of the Germans and their children. The children wanted to be Americans and learn the language. They received Bible teaching in their own churches; however, it was predominately German. The Sunday School was purposely held on Sunday afternoons so as not to conflict with or replace the Sunday School of the churches.

The leadership of the early days of the Mission, as I remember it, was Rev. Hinkin, Fred Wells, Rev. George Chenout, Ray Deines, and Rev. Jerry Dunn. They were all Rescue Mission servants serving and ministering to anyone in need. They ministered to the entire person, body, soul, and spirit. The present Superintendent, Steve Janovec, is no exception, a very dedicated man indeed!

The early emphasis was to the transients and the German kids. Later, the black minority people were helped. When the Chenouts arrived, they included the American Indians and the Mexicans. Now these groups all have their own centers. The emphasis is presently to the homeless and battered wives and their families.

I well remember when my older brothers and sisters attended and relayed to me what a great time they had at the Mission. It was not so much what they learned, but how much fun it was. It was a wonderful way of spending an otherwise dull Sunday afternoon especially in the winter time.

I well remember when Kathryn Schmall, (bless her Memory), would gather all the kids she could on Sunday afternoon, get permission from our mothers and walk us up to the Mission, by way of the tracks. We walked single file along the path of the Denver and Chicago railroad tracks, past the switching tower, under the big water tank, and sometimes stopped in the switchman's shanty to warm up in the winter time. Then we proceeded up the alley between "O" Street and "N" Street to the South 9th Street Gospel Mission.

At the Sunday School, we were well supervised, but we had loads of fun and games. We learned a lot! There were Christmas Pageants, Easter Pageants, and plenty of Bible School, all in the American language. We had picnics - large picnics, and many trips to Pioneer Park by bus. Halloween parties and trips to the Zoo also. The part that I remember most was that we got to "run loose" after the meetings on the front sidewalk until time to gather and retrace our steps home.

"TAKE IT FROM HENRY" cont.

I also remember one time when Kathryn got permission to let us go up into a switching tower and watch the operator pull the levers for "throwing" the switches for the trains and switch engines. We could watch him send telegraphs ahead to the various dispatchers.

I can remember when we boys were a little older, teenagers, we got to go to the Sunday night services. There was "Honsey" Becker, "Chingou" Dietrich, Tillie Alt, Pete and Heiney Lorenez, and myself. We were not so much interested in the services that were being held, but Rev. Hinkin had three daughters that lived upstairs above the Mission! During these times, we got to stay out until 9:30 at night, sometimes it extended to 10:00, just as the 10:00 train from Denver was arriving, that was the time piece!.

Yes, I owe a debt of gratitude to the People's City Mission for giving me proper guidance when I needed it most. I learned many songs, choruses, and Bible verses. These all remain with me to this day! Also, for the privilege of serving as President of the Mission for two terms in 1971 and 1972.

THANKS HANK

The Lincoln Quilters and Betty Walters, Omaha, NE have donated a full-size quilt to be raffled at the Denver Convention. You can purchase a raffle ticket at Headquarters after April 1st. The proceeds from the raffle will go to the Endowment Fund. Other items included on this ticket are: a small quilt made by Venita Schneider, Ft. Collins, CO, and a Franklin Mint plate "IMMIGRATION Freedom" donated by Ella Reese, Puyallup, WA.

Looking for 1977 AHSGR Convention Plate; contact Headquarters if you would like to sell or donate this plate Phone: 474-3363

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ANNUAL KRAUT & BREI DINNER

MAY 14, 1993

4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

WELFARE SOCIETY HALL
1430 No. 10TH

ADULT TICKETS \$7.00, CHILDREN UNDER 12, \$3.00

Please complete form below and send with self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Norma Somerheiser
2675 South 11th St.
Lincoln, NE, 68502

RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ dinner tickets @ 7.00 each.
Children under 12, \$3.00 each. Amount enclosed \$ _____.

RESERVATIONS, MONEY AND SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPES
MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 8TH, 1993.

THANK YOU!
